



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Beshear Proclaims May as 'Building Safety Month in Kentucky' *Awareness campaign helps families, businesses*

Frankfort, Ky. (May 2, 2014) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed the month of May to be "Building Safety Month in Kentucky."

Founded by the International Code Council (ICC), the annual public awareness campaign, directed in the state by the Public Protection Cabinet's Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction (DHBC), helps families and businesses understand the importance of sustaining safe structures and reinforces the need for modern building codes, strong code enforcement and a well-trained industry workforce.

This year's theme is "Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks."

Gary Feck, director of DHBC's Division of Building Codes Enforcement, said building safety and fire prevention experts ensure that Kentucky's buildings are safe to occupy.

"Ensuring public safety is something we think about and do every day by working with building owners, design professionals, contractors and others in the construction industry."

Staff of the Division of Building Codes Enforcement reviews and approves construction documents and inspects construction projects and buildings in accordance with the Kentucky Building Code, including commercial buildings and two-family dwellings. All single-family homes are reviewed and inspected by the local county or city building official if an inspection program exists. For those counties or cities without an inspection program, the builder is required to meet the Kentucky Residential Code and is required to obtain mechanical system inspections on new construction.

Feck notes the importance of local building inspectors to communities. "We are very grateful to have local building inspectors who are certified through the Kentucky Certified

Building Inspectors Program and participate in continuing education training programs that ensure our industry professionals have the knowledge and skills to administer a local inspection program effectively.

“The continuing education programs help ensure uniform, state-wide enforcement of building codes. We are all safer because of this program,” said Feck.

For additional information on the state’s Certified Building Inspector Program, visit online at <http://dhbc.ky.gov/vbce/bc/Pages/certifiedinspection.aspx>.

Each week of Building Safety Month spotlights a specific area of building safety, including: fire safety and awareness, May 5-11; storm and natural disaster preparation, May 12-18; backyard safety, May 19-25; and energy efficiency, May 26-31.

State Fire Marshal William Swope and his staff in DHBC’s Division of Fire Prevention work diligently to eliminate the potential for loss due to fire and other hazards through education, licensing and inspection programs.

“The deputy fire marshals across the state not only investigate the cause and origin of fires and explosions, but also focus on fire prevention education activities in an effort to prevent fires, which is our best defense in home fire safety,” said Swope.

For additional information on Building Safety Month, including fire safety, visit the ICC’s website at <http://www.iccsafe.org/BSM/Pages/default.aspx>.

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